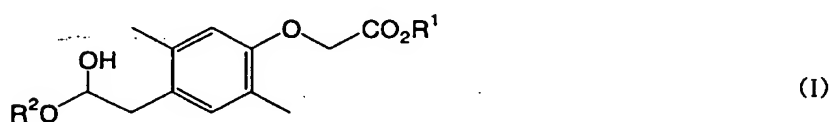


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

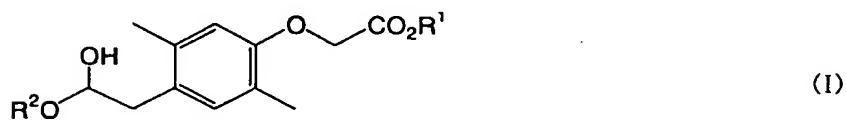
1. (original): A compound represented by general formula (I):



wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently a lower alkyl group.

2. (original): The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are an ethyl group.

3. (original): A process for preparing a compound represented by general formula (I):



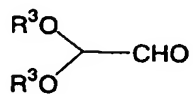
wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently a lower alkyl group,
which comprises the steps of

- (a) treating a compound represented by formula (II):



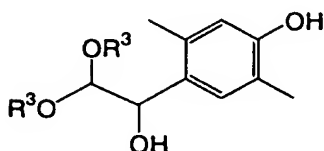
with a compound represented by general formula (III):

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT



(III)

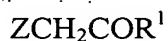
wherein R³ is a lower alkyl group, to form a compound represented by general formula (IV):



(IV)

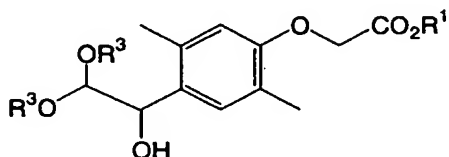
wherein R³ is as defined above;

(b) treating said compound represented by general formula (IV) with a compound represented by general formula (V):



(V)

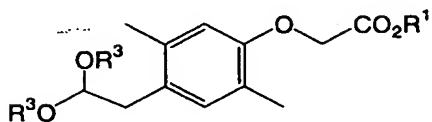
wherein Z is a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, and R¹ is as defined above, to form a compound represented by general formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein R¹ and R³ are as defined above;

(c) reducing said compound represented by general formula (VI) to form a compound represented by general formula (VII):

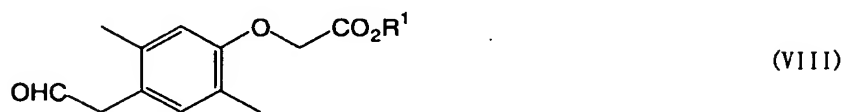


(VII)

wherein R¹ and R³ are as defined above;

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

(d) hydrolyzing said compound represented by general formula (VII) to form a compound represented by general formula (VIII):



wherein R^1 is as defined above; and

(e) treating said compound represented by general formula (VIII) with R^2 -OH wherein R^2 is as defined above.

4. (original): The process according to claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^2 are an ethyl group, and R^3 is a methyl group.

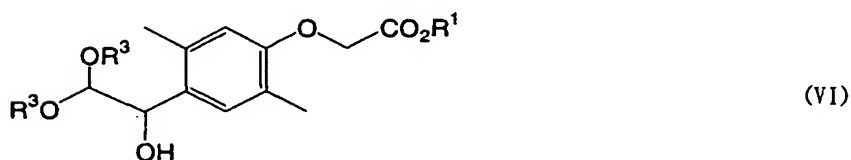
5. (original): A compound represented by general formula (IV):



wherein R^3 is a lower alkyl group.

6. (original): The compound according to claim 5, wherein R^3 is a methyl group.

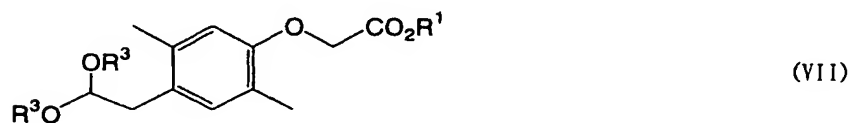
7. (original): A compound represented by general formula (VI):



wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a lower alkyl group.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

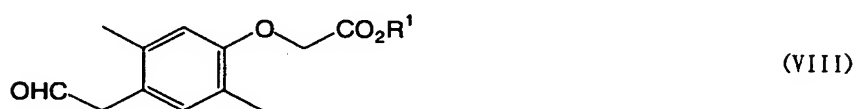
8. (original): A compound represented by general formula (VII):



wherein each of R¹ and R³ is independently a lower alkyl group.

9. (currently amended): The compound according to ~~claims 7 or 8~~ claim 7, wherein R¹ is an ethyl group, and R³ is a methyl group.

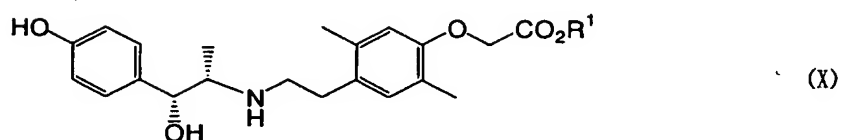
10. (original): A compound represented by general formula (VIII):



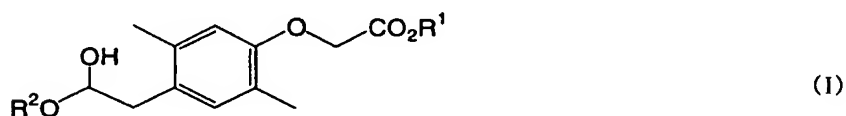
wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl group.

11. (original): The compound according to claim 10, wherein R¹ is an ethyl group.

12. (original): A process for preparing a compound represented by general formula (X):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl group, which comprises the step of treating a compound represented by general formula (I):



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

wherein R^1 is as defined above, and R^2 is a lower alkyl group, with a compound represented by formula (IX):



in the presence of a reducing agent, and thereafter optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound (X).

13. (original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R^1 and R^2 are an ethyl group.

14. (new): The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^1 is an ethyl group, and R^3 is a methyl group.